

**REMARKS**

This RCE is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated August 25, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 25, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-6, 13-17, 61-77, and 80-148 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 1, 80, 81, 86-88, 91, and 92 have been amended and new claims 97-148 have been added. No new matter has been added by either the amendments or new claims. New claims 97, 98, and 101-105 are claims 4, 13, 82, 85, 87, 90, and 94 redrafted in independent form (before current amendment to their base claims).

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 81, and 86 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ringgenberg* (U.S. Patent No. 6,325,146). *Ringgenberg* does not teach, suggest, or disclose a deployment valve being an integral part of a casing string cemented in a wellbore as recited in amended claims 1 and 81. The tester valve 44 is part of formation test assembly 20 which is interconnected in tubular string 18 (col. 3, lines 9-22). The tubular string 18 is not cemented in a wellbore (FIG. 1). Therefore, claims 1, 81, and their dependents are not anticipated by *Ringgenberg*.

Regarding new claims 106-148, *Ringgenberg* does not teach, suggest, or disclose "assembling the DDV as part of a tubular string"; "running a drill string through the tubular string bore and the DDV bore, the drill string comprising a drill bit located at an axial end thereof;" and "drilling the wellbore to a second depth using the drill string and the drill bit", as recited in new claim 106. The only drilling *Ringgenberg* discloses in connection with his formation test assemblies are drilling out the tubular string 132 in the "rigless" embodiment illustrated in FIG. 4 and being able to drill a second wellbore in connection with the embodiment of FIG. 6 since that embodiment does not require use of a rig. Therefore, claim 106 and its dependents are not anticipated by *Ringgenberg*.

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Claims 88, 89, and 91-93 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hay* (U.S. Patent No. 6,279,660). *Hay* does not teach, suggest, or disclose a downhole deployment valve being an integral part of a casing string cemented in a wellbore as recited in amended claims 88 and 92. Sleeve valve 250 is carried by first production pipe 211 which is not cemented in the wellbore (col. 4, lines 50-54 and FIG. 3). Therefore, claims 88, 92, and their dependents are not anticipated by *Hay*.

Regarding new claims 106-148, *Hay* does not teach, suggest, or disclose either "assembling the DDV as part of a tubular string"; "running a drill string through the tubular string bore and the DDV bore, the drill string comprising a drill bit located at an axial end thereof;" and "drilling the wellbore to a second depth using the drill string and the drill bit", or "an axial bore therethrough in communication with an axial bore of the tubular string when the valve member is in the open position, the valve member substantially sealing a first portion of the bore from a second portion of the bore when the valve member is in the closed position", as recited in new claim 106.

*Hay's* sole reference to drilling is in col. 2, lines 25-30. Applicants believe this reference is to the embodiment of FIG. 8 which is a sea bed separation system 700 (col. 3, line 15). This is because the FIG. 8 embodiment is the only one referring to a separator. The detailed description of the separation system 700 at col. 6, lines 39-67 describes the system 700 used only for production purposes. The drilling reference provides that the separation system 700 could also be used for drilling purposes. Flow control in the system 700 is provided by the control valve 750 located on the seabed rather than the sliding valves 150, 250, 350 as in other embodiments (col. 6, lines 59-61). The sensor packages 710, 711 are also located on the seabed rather than in the wellbore in the system 700. If the separation system 700 were used for drilling, then entrance pipe 704 would carry mud return fluid from an annulus of the wellbore. The drill string would not be run through any part of the separation system 700. Referring to the other embodiments of *Hay*, *Hay's* sliding valves 150, 250, 350 do not substantially seal first portions of axial bores of the production pipes 112, 211, 312, respectively, from second portions of the bores. Sliding valves operate to open or close slots formed

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through a wall of a tubular member. Therefore, claim 106 and its dependents are not anticipated by *Hay*.

#### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 4, 13, 14, 17, 82, 85, 87, 90, and 94 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim but would be allowable if redrafted in independent form. Applicants believe the objection is moot as the base claims are now allowable. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

#### ***Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (SIDS)***

A SIDS is included with this response.

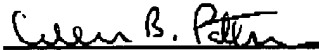
#### ***Withdrawn Claims***

Claims 15, 16, 66, 67, 74, 75, 83, and 84 are withdrawn. Since Applicants believe that their base claims are now allowable, Applicants request rejoinder of these claims.

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Alty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0259.P1**Conclusion**

The references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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